

ments. This volume has a hard cover and a small but clear type face, which are distinct improvements over Vol. I that was printed by a different publisher.

The families, genera, and species are described fully with economic and distributional notes at the end of the family and generic descriptions. The species are presented alphabetically within the families except for the Compositae, which are alphabetical within the tribes. The species descriptions are concise with many unique observations, and are followed by the plant's range within the area of the flora with localities and then in general terms for its total range. A statement of the habitat and associations where the plant occurs in the valley also is given.

The keys are indented and easy to use, although some couplets in the keys to large genera are very involved, use many characters, and are a little confusing. There are good drawings with habit and details of some species in all families. One would like more, but cost and space are a valid concern.

The boundaries for this flora include the slopes of all of the various sierras that form the Valley of Mexico and range up to 5452 m. A very nice byproduct of this fact is that this flora has a utility for a much wider range, as many of the plants occur at high altitudes from Durango to Oaxaca.

Throughout the work, references are cited where they are drawn upon in the preparation of the treatments. This is reflected in the conservative and usually current species concepts presented. Although there are 46 authors of various groups in this volume alone, the presentation is uniform and reflects considerable effort by the editors to accomplish this.

The Rzedowskis are to be congratulated on the completion of this volume of the flora of the Valley of Mexico, which is a valuable addition to our knowledge of the plants of Mexico and will be a useful tool for many years to come.—DENNIS E. BREEDLOVE, Dept. of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

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*A Flora of Dry Lakes Ridge, Ventura County, California.* By David L. Magney, vii + 110 pp. The Herbarium, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, Publication No. 5, 1986. \$8.00

This botanical research results from a four year study during every month of the year. Data include details regarding soil analyses, geology, climatology, land use, floristic history, botanical resources of special concern, environmental sensitivity, and recommendations for management procedures.

The area is north of Ojai at the headwaters of the North Fork of Matilija Creek. The ridge's north flank is drained by Sespe Creek. Access is available by foot, with some difficulty, from two directions via bulldozed firebreak/trails.

The effects on the vegetation by fires during 1932, 1948, and 1985 are explained. There are two habitat groups: 1) wetlands—consisting of stream, seeps and slopes; 2) upland—basins along the ridge at the summit with finer-grained soils.

Each principal plant species is discussed as to percentage of cover and how it dominates or persists in localized areas. Post-fire vegetation is listed. Erosion control plantings are evaluated. There are five plants endemic to the general region. Paleobotanical aspects are dealt with. Fossil evidence and woodrat middens are discussed. The book concludes with an annotated catalogue of vascular plants.

There are several black-and-white illustrations of good quality. Graphs, charts, line drawings, and maps are uncomplicated and quite understandable. The text is double-spaced and easily readable. The work is well-prepared and deals with a little-known botanical area.—WALTER KNIGHT, Research Associate, The Carnegie Museum, Section of Botany, Pittsburgh, PA.